



Press Release

Lake County Sheriff's Office
www.sheriffdunlap.org

Daniel A. Dunlap
Sheriff

PRESS RELEASE **August 19, 2014**

Yesterday in Concord Township we had what we believe was a "distraction burglary" attempted. Reportedly, a Hispanic male in his late 20's or early 30's, with thin build and no facial hair, wearing a traffic vest came to a home driving a compact white pick-up truck. He attempted to distract the female resident by telling her she needed to come out to the back of her house with him so he could have her look at some lot stakes to insure he properly identified the property line. Fortunately she did not leave her residence and the male left. We believe the male was attempting to lure the female resident out of her home so his accomplice could sneak into the home and steal her valuables.

Distraction Burglaries are not new, and police departments across the United States are experiencing them. The burglary occurs when someone comes to your door and begins convincing you to either come outside your home. No matter what the reason they are attempting to get you to come outside of your home to another location while an accomplice gets inside your home and steals what they can, as quickly as they can.

They often target the elderly. They really hook the resident in on a convincing story to divert the victim's attention. Someone will present themselves as a utility repair person – gas, water, electric and they'll say they need to get in the back yard. Or they need you to come out in the front yard and show them something, anything to get your attention away from your residence. Their accomplice then enters your home looking for jewelry or cash, things they can quickly get out of your home in two minutes or less.

Be aware of such situations and take precautions to prevent becoming a victim. In a recent story the Los Angeles Police Department made these recommendations regarding "distraction burglaries":

- If you're not sure who is at your door, don't open it. Remember, you don't have to open your door to anyone. If you do open your front door, make sure your back door is locked.

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- Check the identification of anyone representing a company, utility or organization. Real employees expect to be asked for their I.D. And will provide you with a number to call to verify what they're doing.
- Don't just call the number they give you. Check with information or your phone directory to make sure the number isn't fake.
- And most importantly, stay inside your house. If a baby needs water, hand it through the door. Do not step outside, no matter how innocent the situation seems.

Here is a great short video that demonstrates how “distraction burglaries” work. Check it out to help insure you do not fall prey to such deception.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pviw9TZysN4>

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